



# HAMILTON COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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## MINUTES

### LEPC Meeting Minutes, January 14, 2009

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held January 14, 2008 at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd., East Ridge, TN. The following constitutes the minutes of that meeting.

#### Those in attendance were:

Bruce Garner, CFD; LEPC Chairman  
Robert Hadden, THP  
Chris McCormack, SRT Safety,  
Vice/Chair  
Nathan Hollingsworth, NA Industries  
Leon Connor, NA Industries  
John Piotter, Env. Waste Svcs,  
Vice/Chair  
Dawn Ford, CHC Health Dept.,  
Vice/Chair  
John Moorshead, DPC Enterprises  
Mike Poe, SOFIX Corp.  
David Darnell, BASF Corp., Vice/Chair  
Bob Watson, ADM  
Jamie Farrow, Pilgrims Pride  
Doug Marshall, S & ME  
Anthony Phillips, Lamberti

Mike Akins, FRI  
Philip Hyman, Chatt.Fire  
Matt McElhancy, MEI  
Tim Arnold, USCG AUX.  
Robert McCain, Chattanooga Gas  
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace  
Larry Martin, McKee Foods, Vice/Chair  
Tim McDonald, Hamilton County  
Nathan Warren, Highway Transport &  
Chemical  
Bill Tittle, HCEM, Vice/Chair  
Robbie Brewer, UNIVAR  
LeBron Curd. Kinder Morgan  
Jason Malone, NuFoam  
Bob Jackson, Chatt. State  
Melody Dunlap, Clean Harbors  
Wayne Stuntz, HC Emergency Svcs

**Introductory Remarks:** Chairman Garner began by welcoming all in attendance and asked for personal introductions.

Chairman Garner then asked if there was anyone in attendance who wished to become a member of the LEPC. Mr. Bob Watson of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) asked to become a member. Motion was made by Chief Tittle to accept ADM as a member, seconded by Jamie Farrow. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Chairman Garner told the committee that he had the new LEPC 2009 membership certificates for those who asked for them in previous years—to pick up from him after the meeting.

Chairman Garner reminded LEPC members that they are eligible for “free” training for up to five members of their company—which includes: Hazwoper refresher training, CPR, First Aid and Fire Extinguisher training. He then passed around a 2009 survey for those members interested in taking advantage of this free offer.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Approval of Minutes for Last Meeting**

Chairman Garner asked for a motion to approve the Nov 12, 2008 meeting minutes. Motion to approve made by Mike Poe, seconded by John Piotter. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

Secretary Wayne Stuntz read the LEPC Financial Report which covered the period from November 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Chairman Garner told the Committee that he and some members of the LEPC Executive Board had a meeting with the 911 Board regarding the Rapid Notification System. Chairman Garner gave a brief recap of the exercise the LEPC conducted in April, 2007 of the Rapid Public Notification System (RPNS) which included the Emergency Alert System (EAS)—which is TV and radio. Bruce said that the exercise revealed some pitfalls in being able to notify the public in the event of a quick moving disaster that would threaten lives in a short period of time.

Bruce said that the LEPC, for some time, has been trying to find ways to enhance that system. He said that one of the issues is the continuous down trend in the use of landlines, and the current RPNS calls only landlines—therefore missing a large part of the population by not including cell phones in the system.

Bruce said that the LEPC has been discussing the issue with Hamilton County Emergency Management and the 911 Board which he said basically involves a proposal to form a partnership between the 911 Board and the LEPC. The partnership would require the LEPC to purchase a software package. He also said that a website would be set up for the public to voluntarily submit their cell phone numbers to be part of the RPNS.

Bruce said that a tentative price for the software would be in the range of \$7500. He said that the partnership would be that we, the LEPC, purchase the software and enter into a

contract with a company for about \$7500. After which the 911 Board would in turn spend up to \$40,000 to \$50,000 to advertise the new initiative. This would help the LEPC promote the idea to the general public to submit their cell phone numbers to be used only during an emergency.

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Bruce said that there is still the issue of “sustainability”—where as the LEPC makes the first purchase and because of the LEPCs limited funding—would not be able to continue paying for recurring expenses.

Chief Tittle asked the committee at large—how many present relies on a cell phone at their home rather than a land line? More than half of the attendee’s responded that they relied only on cell-phone usage—not a land line phone. Chief Tittle said that the show of hands indicates the magnitude and the scope of the problem in that we would not be able to reach a large segment of the population with the current RPNS.

Mr. Robert McCain, of Chattanooga Gas, commented that the number listed in the data base of the RPNS is straight from the phone directory—that if you want to be notified in the event of an emergency, it is imperative that your number be listed in the directory—if you wish to be notified of an event that could affect your company.

Ms Jamie Farrow with Pilgrim’s Pride asked if TEMA had responded to the results of the exercise conducted in April 2007 regarding the poor response of the EAS system during the exercise. Chairman Garner said that was one of the questions he had intended on asking the guest from TEMA (Nashville Emergency Management) who were expected to attend our meeting—but, have yet to arrive.

Chairman Garner iterated that following the exercise in April of 2007, TEMA was sent a copy of the results which clearly indicated that EAS was not very functional in this area. Bruce said that he believed that TEMA should take the results of the exercise seriously. He said that he has not received any response from TEMA, or that they are even working on it.

Chief Tittle commented that part of the problem is that many of the radio stations are going more and more digital and less and less with human hands on the watch. He said that at night, many of the radio stations are without a human being—there all digital, all pre-programmed, and that therein lies a big problem for getting emergency messages out.

Chairman Garner said what concerns him is that the exercise was conducted in the middle of the day—fully staffed, and radio stations waiting to get the signal and received nothing. Bruce said that the monthly test of the EAS system is virtually worthless because there is no follow up by the FCC to make sure that these tests are in-fact being re-addressed by other radio stations.

**New Business:**

**Program:**

1. Discussion and short video from Chemical Safety Board's investigation of the propane tank explosion in Ghent, West Virginia.

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Mr. David Darnell, with BASF, provided an excellent overview/discussion of the Chemical explosion of a propane tank in Ghent, WV. After which he presented a well documented video of the investigation/outcome of the incident.

**Program:**

2. Mrs. Dawn Ford, with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department provided very informative and current update of the Avian Flu Threat.

**Other Business:**

Chief Tittle added that the reason our TEMA guests were coming to our meeting was to observe it—a compliment to our LEPC as it is considered the best, or one of the best LEPCs in the State of Tennessee. He further said that the new Director of Emergency Management in Nashville wants to get a better LEPC in Nashville and pattern their group after our group—a real compliment.

**Date and Location of Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2009, 10:30 a.m. at Wally's Restaurant, 6521 Ringgold Rd, East Ridge, Tennessee.

**Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted,  
LEPC Secretary, Wayne Stuntz